

hybridizes under highly stringent conditions of hybridization to filter-bound DNA in 0.5 M NaHPO₄, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 1 mM EDTA at 65 °C, and washing in 0.1xSSC/0.1% SDS at 68 °C to the compliment of a nucleic acid molecule encoded by SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7, wherein the presence of the retroviral nucleic acid molecule indicates that the individual has a disorder selected from the group consisting of PSC, Autoimmune Hepatitis, hereinafter AIH, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis.

3. (amended) A composition comprising an isolated Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis, PSC, associated retrovirus comprising a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ. ID. NOs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or a nucleic acid that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions of hybridization to filter-bound DNA in 0.5 M NaHPO₄, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 1 mM EDTA at 65 °C, and washing in 0.1xSSC/0.1% SDS at 68 °C to the compliment of a nucleic acid molecule encoded by SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7.

4. (twice amended) A method for identifying an individual infected with the Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis, hereafter PSC, associated retrovirus comprising detection of a PSC associate retroviral nucleic acid molecule wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ. ID. NOs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or a nucleic acid that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions of hybridization to filter-bound DNA in 0.5 M NaHPO₄, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 1 mM EDTA at 65 °C, and washing in 0.1xSSC/0.1% SDS at 68 °C to the compliment of a nucleic acid molecule encoded by SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7, wherein the presence of the nucleic acid molecule indicates that the individual is infected with the PSC associated retrovirus.

7. (amended) A method for identifying an *in vitro* sample infected with the Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis, hereafter PSC, associated retrovirus comprising the step of detecting the presence or absence of the PSC associated Retroviral nucleic acid molecule wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ. ID. NOs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or a nucleic acid that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions of hybridization to filter-bound DNA in 0.5 M NaHPO₄, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 1 mM EDTA at 65 °C, and washing in 0.1xSSC/0.1% SDS at 68 °C to the compliment of a nucleic acid molecule